

ROCKY FLATS ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY SITE REGULATORY CONTACT RECORD

Date/Time: August 22, 2000/ 9:00 a.m.

Site Contact(s): Ted A. Hopkins
Phone: 303-966-7652

Regulatory Contact: Edd Kray, Cindy Burbach, James Hindman
Phone: 303-966-2115

Agency: CDPHE

Purpose of Contact: Notification of underground water pipe break

Discussion

On August 22, 2000 during the monthly CDPHE/RFETS compliance meeting, I notified CDPHE of an underground water pipeline leak. This pipeline supplies raw process water to the Cooling Tower and is used to supply cooling to B776/777. CDPHE representatives at this meeting were Cindy Burbach and James Hindman. Later that day, I notified Edd Kray, CDPHE RFCA point-of-contact for B776/777 and requested permission to replace the excavated soil from repair of this pipeline back in the excavation pit. Mr. Kray contacted CDPHE's ER to discuss this request. Later that day, Mr. Kray informed me that the soil could not be replaced in the excavation.

BACKGROUND/UPDATE:

On Sunday, August 20, 2000, SOEs in Building 776/777 found an area between Building 701 and the west Cooling Tower that was oozing water. This release was reported to the Building 776/777 CCA at 8:30 a.m., August 21.

Monday, August 21, 2000

Ed Blush, B776/777 Maintenance Manager, determined that the spill was actually a break in the underground pipeline for the cooling water tower. This 16" line was leaking in area approximately 150 feet east of an old IHSS. Carbon tetrachloride was the contaminant of concern for this IHSS. Both surface water and groundwater SMEs for the site were contacted and asked for their evaluation regarding continued operation of this line. An evaluation of the potential impact to the area was started. A sample of the water from the area of the break was taken by surface water representatives. Analysis for volatile organics, metals, and rad was requested.



Tuesday, August 22, 2000

SMEs Bob Fiehweg, Steve Singer, Dave Duboll, Keith Motyl determined that the potential existed that mounding of the groundwater from raw water released from the underground pipeline could possibly reverse the flow of the groundwater and flush a nearby IHSS that was contaminated with high concentrations of carbon tetrachloride. This evaluation was based on process knowledge of the IHSS, groundwater flow in the area, and observation of monitoring wells in the area. Based on this evaluation, Mark Ferri, Project Manager for B776/777 declared a facility emergency. Operation of the Cooling Towers was terminated and plans for the emergency repair of the pipeline commenced. Without cooling the potential of restricting or eliminating operations within the building because of heat stress to the workers was a real possibility.

Repair operations began the same day. Plans were made to stage excavated soil on plastic and to berm the staging area to prevent run off. In addition, the staged soil will be covered with plastic to prevent infiltration by rainwater. Soil and any water removed from the excavation will be sampled for radioactivity and chemical contaminants.

By 4:00 p.m., the pipeline had been uncovered. The line is approximately 42" deep. Sample results of the water sample taken Monday were received. No organics, metals or rad contaminants were present in the sample.

Thursday, August 24

Activities to repair the pipeline will continue. Soil sampling is schedule to be completed on Thursday. Further updates will be distributed as Contact Records. A meeting will be requested with CDPHE to discuss returning the soil to the excavation site based on sample results.

Contact Record Prepared By: Ted A. Hopkins

Required Distribution:

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P. Arnold, 371
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Contact Record 4/10/00
Rev. 7/13/00

Additional Distribution:

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